

2 March 1976

NOTE FOR:

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SUBJECT : Executive Secrecy Bill

I suggest that the response to Ribicoff on the Executive Secrecy bill be recast to reflect a positive Agency position concerning the need for a comprehensive policy on classification management. The argument against the bill set forth in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of the draft response is, in my judgment, woefully weak. Executive Order 11652 is inadequate for the purpose intended and ICRC is not terribly effective. Also, I wonder about the validity of the 50% reduction in the number of documents classified by the Agency, cited in paragraph 4, since E.O. 11652 was promulgated.

Given the turn of events over the past several years, I think it is reasonable to observe that Government secrecy is an issue whose time has come. To argue that Executive direction in this area is adequate flies in the face of the facts; at best, the Executive approach to classification management can be characterized as piece meal.

In our response to ~~the~~ Ribicoff, I suggest that we recognize the need for a comprehensive classification policy and that we pledge Agency support for such an endeavor. However, we should point out the need to protect certain sensitive information maintained by the Intelligence Community and propose alternative language that would insure such protection. By going this route, perhaps we can set a proactive role for the Agency as opposed to the "kicking and screaming but we'll go along if we must" attitude that comes through in the initial draft.

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Attachment: DDA 76-0888

76 - 2016

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OLC 76-1182

22 April 1976

Honorable Nelson Rockefeller  
President of the Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Attention: Mr. Spofford Canfield

Dear Mr. President:

On 2 March 1976, our Deputy Director for Administration, Mr. John Blake, submitted to you a report pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552(d) on this Agency's experience with requests for records under the Freedom of Information Act during calendar year 1975. Through inadvertence, the enclosure to that letter contained a copy of [ ] dated 14 February 1975 entitled, "Agency Implementation of the Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act," which is marked Administrative Internal Use Only. That designation is no longer applicable and should be removed. I am enclosing a copy of [ ] with that designator stricken. I would appreciate it if this document could be substituted as enclosure D to the report originally submitted.

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Sincerely [ ]

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/s/

George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

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14 April 1976

Executive Secretary  
National Classification Management Society  
Post Office Box 7453  
Alexandria, VA 22307

Dear Sir:

I have recently been assigned as Classification Officer for the Central Intelligence Agency. In order to develop and implement meaningful classification programs, I am searching for information on similar programs throughout the government. Your organization seems to be the only professional society in the field of classification management and I would appreciate information on your Society, its goals, mission and membership.

NCMS came to my attention as a result of your Conference Program Coordinator's letter to CIA's Freedom of Information Officer, Mr. Gene Wilson. The subject of that letter was an invitation for Mr. Wilson to speak at your upcoming conference in San Diego in July. I too am interested in the conference and would like to receive a copy of the conference brochure.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

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